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PETITIONS CONCERNING THE TRUST TERRITORY OF TOGOLAND  
UNDER FRENCH ADMINISTRATION

Observations of the French Government as Administering Authority

Note by the Secretariat: These observations relate to the following petitions which are summarized in Working Paper T/C.2/L.119. The order of the observations in the document is the same as that of the petitions in the Working Paper.

| <u>Section:</u>   | <u>Page</u> |
|---|-------------|
| 1 - III. Petition from the Mango Branch of the <u>Comité de l'Unité Togolaise</u> (T/PET.7/409) . . . . .     | 2           |
| 2 - III. Petition from the General Chairman of the <u>Comité de l'Unité Togolaise</u> (T/PET.7/410) . . . . . | 2           |
| 3 - IV. Petition from JUVENTO (T/PET.7/415) . . . . .   | 3           |
| 4 - XV. Petition from Mr. William Amenke Kofi (T/PET.7/408) . . . . .   | 3           |
| 5 - XX. Petition from Mr. Boniface Dotse (T/PET.7/417) . . . . .  | 4           |

1. Petition from the Mango Branch of the Comité de l'Unité Togolaise  
(T/PET.7/409)

The subject of this petition is as follows: a number of the members of the Mango branch of the Comité de l'Unité Togolaise recently withdrew from this party. According to its practice in such cases, the Comité de l'Unité Togolaise, in order not to lose face, considers that it should attribute to the local Administration the responsibility for the voluntary actions of some of its members rather than explain the real reasons for disaffection in the ranks of the party.

The allegations contained in this petition are therefore unfounded. The Administering Authority will confine itself to the following observations in the matter:

(1) No population group has at any time been prevented from holding a traditional festival, and no violence has been used in this connexion; if it had been it is surprising that some of the victims did not institute proceedings.

(2) With respect to the alleged escapes to British Togoland, the census taken in July 1954, that is to say, after these events are alleged to have taken place, showed that the population of the Tchokossis quartiers increased from 4,467 in 1951 to 5,374 at the present time.

(3) Mr. Yikoue Koukoura was sentenced in 1953 for stealing cattle. He did not appeal against his sentence. As is customary, his fingerprints were taken when he was imprisoned.

(4) The Commandant de Cercle has never approached Mr. Natchaba or any other person to suggest that they should resign from the CUT.

2. Petition from the General Chairman of the Comité de l'Unité Togolaise  
(T/PET.7/410).

The Administering Authority refers to its observations in reply to document T/PET.7/409<sup>1/</sup> as covering all the points raised in this petition, which is identical with the preceding one.

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1/ Note by the Secretariat: see section 1 of this document.

3. Petition from JUVENTO (T/PET.7/415)

The Administering Authority points out that this resolution, which is designed for propaganda purposes and does not refer to any specific facts, simply reproduces unfounded accusations contained in many previous petitions. Consequently it does not call for any observations other than those which were made when these petitions were examined.

4. Petition from Mr. William Amenke Kofi (T/PET.7/408)

The Administering Authority makes the following observations:

(1) The Akébou Canton is served by a satisfactory road system which is extended according to requirements and possibilities. Two sections, 31 km. in length, were constructed in 1953 and completed the system over which lorries carried 10,000 tons of produce this year. The statements that there are no lorry-roads or markets is therefore completely false.

(2) There are thirteen schools for the children of the fourteen villages in the Akébou Canton. Those children who attend schools outside the canton do so not because there are insufficient schools for them in the area but for reasons of personal convenience.

The statement that it is difficult for them to return home is incomprehensible.

(3) The Akébou Canton, like all other regions, benefits from the economic and social development of the entire Territory. Incidentally, the 1,500,000 frs. paid by the 1,541 taxpayers in Akébou would not even suffice to cover the salary of the five officials in the canton, not to mention the heavy expenses for the upkeep and administration of the various economic and, in particular, social services.

(4) Subject to the protection of certain species of game, hunting is not forbidden. Twenty-seven modern rifles and 307 trade guns are registered in the canton. There are always a number of people with guns slung over their shoulders in the streets of Akébou, which proves that hunting is widespread in this region.

(5) Owing to the obvious necessity for preserving what remains of the forests, the felling of trees is subject to restrictions. The required authorization is granted as freely as possible on request, and on the advice of the specialized services.

5. Petition from Mr. Boniface Dotse (T/PET.7/417)

The Administering Authority makes the following observations:

The petitioner was retained in his post in the Lomé Highways Department beyond the statutory age limit until he was no longer able to perform the minimum amount of work that would justify his retention. During the last two years this painter, who is about 68 years of age, whose health had seriously deteriorated and who was no longer able to mount a ladder or perform any useful work, nevertheless continued to draw his salary which had been paid regularly despite his long absences. This favourable treatment could not be kept up indefinitely.

Moreover, when he stole some linseed oil some time ago it was decided, on account of his age, not to dismiss and prosecute him.

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